

Impact Report

The Compassion Story - 2023





The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

 Luke 4:18-19

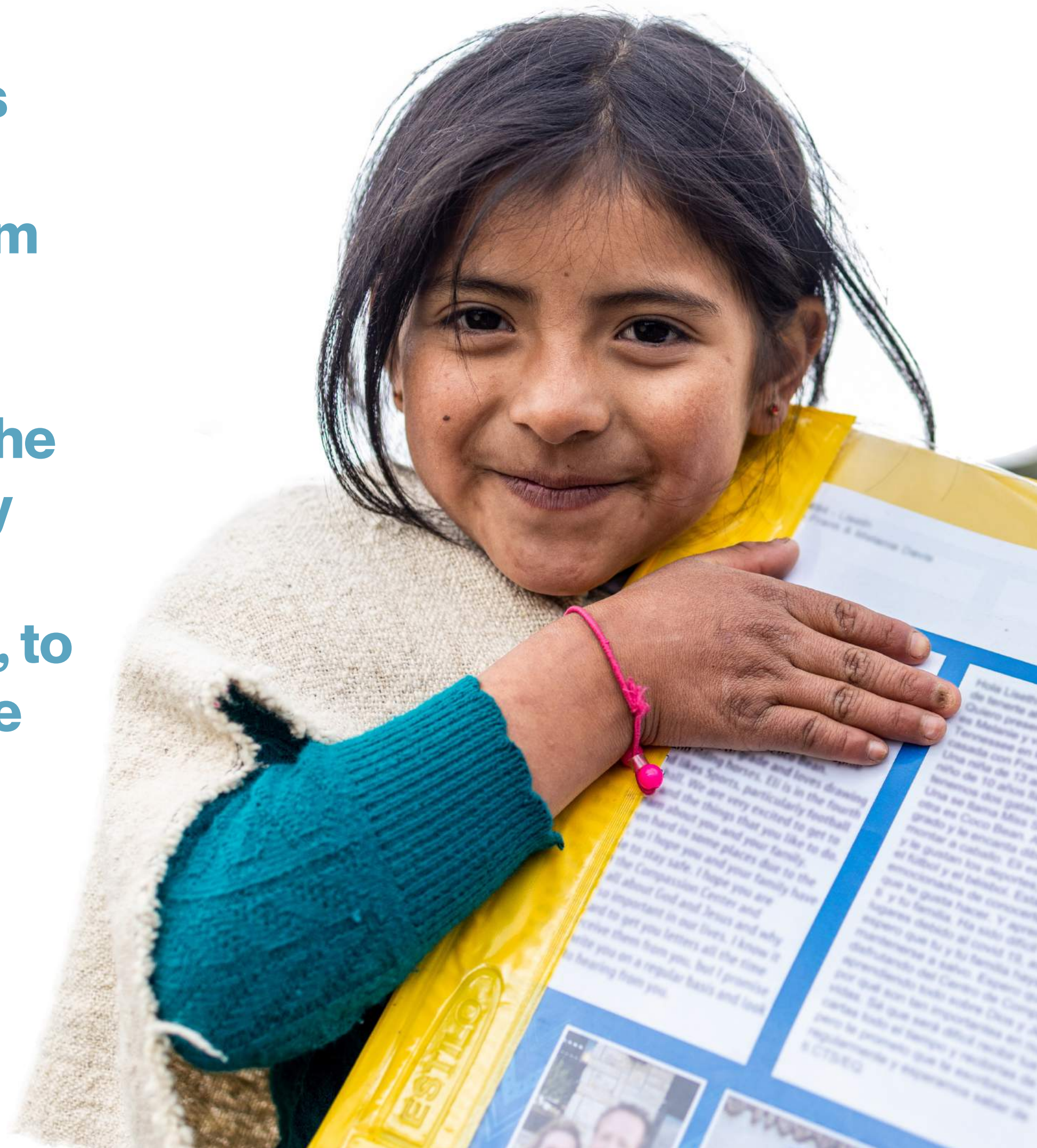




Table of contents

Our mission and distinctives	08
Our history	12
Our holistic child development model	14
Our programs	16
Words from our supporters	18
The global story	20
Africa	24
Asia	30
Central America	36
South America	42

As one of the world's leading child development organizations, Compassion partners with local churches to lift children out of spiritual, economic, social and physical poverty. Today, over **8,000 local church partners** in **29 countries** deliver Compassion's proven child development program to more than **2 million** infants, children and youth. Around the world, children, families and entire communities are being empowered to overcome poverty and thrive both now and into the future.



Our mission:

To release children from poverty in Jesus' name



Our distinctives

We are Christ-centred.

We believe the transformative love of Christ can change lives. We aim to serve our neighbours around the world as Jesus did: by meeting practical needs and sharing the tangible hope of His gospel.



We are child-focused.

We strategically focus on children because we believe that an investment in a child's life also impacts their family, community and nation. We provide kids and youth with the resources and relationships to overcome poverty.



We are church-driven.

We believe that local churches are uniquely positioned to meet the needs of their neighbours. That's why we partner with local churches around the world, equipping them to lead and implement programs that spark life transformation in their communities.



Our history

1952

Rev. Everett Swanson witnesses the suffering of children during the Korean War and God calls him to do something about it. He begins with a promise to help 35 children and establishes the Everett Swanson Evangelistic Association (ESEA).

1954

The Child Sponsorship Program (CDSP) is developed.

1963

Inspired by Jesus' words in Matthew 15:32, "I have compassion for these people ... I do not want to send them away hungry", as well as Swanson's growing uneasiness with seeing his own name represent a growing ministry, the name is changed from the Everett Swanson Evangelistic Association to Compassion International.

1964

Compassion of Canada, Ltd (now known as "Compassion Canada") is formed. Bob and Janet Forsyth open their home to house the first Canadian office.

1965

Rev. Everett Swanson dies on November 15th—13 years after pioneering Compassion's ministry.

1966

Rev. Henry L. Harvey becomes president of Compassion International.

1967

A building for Compassion's offices in Seoul, Korea, is constructed and dedicated as the Everett Swanson Memorial Building.



MIRIAM SWANSON ATTENDS THE OPENING OF THE EVERETT SWANSON MEMORIAL BUILDING IN SOUTH KOREA, 1967.

1972

Jim Somerville becomes the first president of Compassion Canada. Compassion Canada's office moves to London, Ontario.

1975

Compassion Inc. ministers in 12 countries and more than 25,000 children are sponsored.

Rev. Wallace H. Erikson becomes president of Compassion International.

1977

Compassion Australia joins Compassion's Global Partner Alliance.

1983

Dave MacLeod is named president of Compassion Canada following Jim Somerville's retirement.

1986

New Zealand joins Compassion's Global Partner Alliance.

1991

Compassion Canada hits the milestone of 10,000 children sponsored.

1993

Dr. Wesley Stafford becomes president of Compassion International.

Barry Slauenwhite becomes Compassion Canada's third President and CEO.

2001

United Kingdom, Italy and Spain join Compassion's Global Partner Alliance.

2002

Fifty-two years after its children inspired the ministry of Compassion, South Korea becomes a funding partner country, and South Koreans begin sponsoring children in other parts of the world.



STAFF PRAYING TOGETHER AT THE SOUTH KOREA INTERNATIONAL PARTNER OFFICE, 2002.

2003

The Survival program is developed. Switzerland becomes a Global Partner country.

2007

Complimentary Interventions (CIV) are developed. Germany becomes a Global Partner country.

2009

Compassion International works in 26 countries and more than **1 million children are sponsored.**

2011

Ireland joins Compassion's Global Partner Alliance.

2013

Compassion Canada celebrates 50 years of ministry.

Santiago "Jimmy" Mellado is welcomed as Compassion International's fifth president.

Compassion Nordic joins the Global Partner Alliance.

2018

Compassion International ministers in 25 countries and more than **2 million children are sponsored.**



CELEBRATIONS! 2 MILLION CHILDREN SPONSORED.

2019

Allison Alley becomes Compassion Canada's fourth President and CEO.

2021

Compassion International now partners with over 8,000 churches in 27 countries to release children from poverty. More than 100,00 children are supported by Canadians.

2023

In the midst of responding to an unprecedented global food crisis, Compassion International announces its expansion into four new program countries: Malawi, Myanmar, Zambia and Cambodia.

Our holistic child development model

Holistic child development is what makes Compassion’s ministry so effective in the many different contexts where children in poverty find themselves around the world. Every child has unique needs because of their unique context. Compassion responds to the unique needs of the children we serve in partnership with over 8,000 local churches worldwide.

Holistic child development is a robust interdisciplinary approach that allows our global program teams to address child poverty with a comprehensive understanding of a child’s development and the promotion of their overall well-being.

Ultimately, our holistic child development model is anchored in what Scripture reveals of Jesus’ life and ministry. In fact, Scripture reveals how Jesus Himself developed as a child:

“Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.” – Luke 2:52

Our model integrates this pattern with complementary disciplines such as psychology, sociology, education and medicine to seek comprehensive well-being for children. This model addresses each child’s physical, cognitive, social-emotional and spiritual needs.

From jungles in the Philippines and the rural townships in Uganda to the high altitudes of Peru and the coastal communities in Haiti, Compassion’s program effectively releases children from poverty in Jesus’ name all around the world.

This isn’t a band-aid solution to poverty. It’s an impact that lasts.

PHYSICAL



Ensuring proper physical development is key to seeing children thrive. In Compassion’s programs, pursuing the physical development of each child includes

medical check-ups, nutritious food, clean water, sanitation solutions, dental hygiene kits, emergency food packs, health and wellness education, medical interventions and more.

COGNITIVE



When children are able to interact with, learn and think about the world around them, they have the chance to fully thrive cognitively. In Compassion’s programs, cognitive development can

look like age-appropriate learning activities, resources for formal education, vocational training, literacy workshops, leadership training, textbooks, computer skills, academic scholarships and more.

SOCIO-EMOTIONAL



Healthy relationships are essential in a child’s life. Children learn how to interact with others in a compassionate way, knowing they deserve the same. Socio-emotional

development in Compassion’s programs can look like playtime with other children, help understanding emotions, goal setting, letter-writing, safe play, ongoing personal support and more.

SPIRITUAL



Each child has the opportunity to hear the gospel in a culturally relevant, invitational way through Compassion’s partnership with local churches. In Compassion’s programs, spiritual

development includes age-appropriate Bible lessons, a Bible, discipleship, connection to a local church, prayer with tutors, special workshops, encouraging letters from sponsors and more.





Our programs

COMPASSION'S PROGRAMS ASSIST CHILDREN THROUGH ALL STAGES OF THEIR DEVELOPMENT, FROM WOMB TO WORKFORCE. COMPASSION'S SURVIVAL PROGRAM, CHILD AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, AND COMPLEMENTARY INTERVENTIONS ALLOW CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES TO THRIVE.

Survival

Compassion equips mothers and babies to be healthy and enables positive development. Our Survival program provides pre- and post-natal care, check-ups and medical care, food for malnourished moms and babies, education on breastfeeding, nutrition and disease prevention, as well as ongoing spiritual guidance and care.



Child and Youth Development

Ensuring every child is known, loved and protected is at the core of who we are. From child sponsorship and vocational workshops for youth to everything in between, Compassion's holistic child development model is rooted in Scripture and integrated with a comprehensive interdisciplinary understanding of what a child needs to thrive.



Complementary Interventions

Compassion's Complementary Interventions supplement the work of our Survival and Child and Youth Development programs by taking action in emergency situations and building capacity and resilience in the communities that the children we serve call home. These interventions provide safe drinking water, mosquito-borne disease prevention, life-saving surgery, emergency relief after a disaster and more.



Words from our supporters



“Compassion is faithful and effective in their stewardship, professional as an organization, responsible in their spending and live out their faith.”

– **Brett Wellman, Donor, Calgary, AB**

“I really believe that Compassion is just exceptional in terms of stewarding resources. If I look at the numbers, more than 80 per cent goes right to the work. Compassion is unbelievable in terms of money that is used on the ground. So, if people ask me why I choose to give to Compassion, that’s my personal reason.”

– **Ian Ardill, Donor, Richmond Hill, ON**

“Compassion is an organization that we as a family have supported for a long time... We started with one Compassion child and then took the leap, and each kid selected a child to sponsor. It was a way to say, ‘This is important to us as a family.’ It was gratifying to receive letters and watch them grow up and graduate. It’s a beautiful opportunity to bless people.”

– **Kate Rock-Thompson, Sponsor, London, ON**

“Supporting Compassion’s mission to release the impoverished in Jesus’ name is an incredible opportunity. Relieving poverty is amazing, but doing so while sharing the bread of life and eternal hope is the ultimate pairing, and so to be able to partner with Compassion is literally a blessing for our organization.”

– **Dan Bartels, Donor, Ancaster, ON**

“We have heard about and experienced Compassion’s impact, and it is truly huge! We are now fully captivated by the work Compassion is doing, and we will be sharing [with others] Compassion’s love, loyalty, and desire for holiness, faith and obedience to God and His word, and their holistic, humble and kind service to lift children out of poverty in Jesus’ name.”

– **Phil and Karen Huizing, Sponsors, Osler, SK**



The global story

How you—and others just like you—made an impact around the world.



Jesus replied:
“Love the Lord your God
with all your heart and
with all your soul and
with all your mind.’ This
is the first and greatest
commandment. And the
second is like it: ‘Love your
neighbor as yourself.’”

 Matthew 22:37-39



Africa

Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya,
Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Togo,
Uganda, Zambia

Totals from June 2023

10

Countries

3,696

Church Partners

918,240








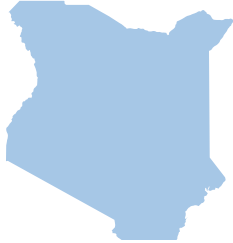



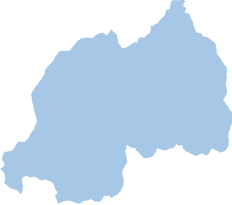





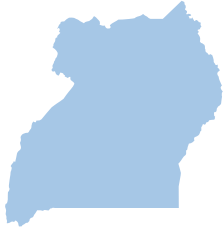

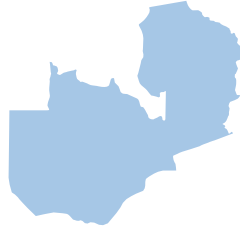
Registered Children

13,087

Survival Program Participants



Here's where you made an impact

<div>1</div> <div><div>437</div><div>Church Partners</div><div>107,326</div><div>Registered Children</div><div>1,756</div><div>Survival Program Participants</div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div>Burkina Faso</div>	<div>2</div> <div><div>584</div><div>Church Partners</div><div>136,045</div><div>Registered Children</div><div>1,903</div><div>Survival Program Participants</div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div>Ethiopia</div>	<div>3</div> <div><div>404</div><div>Church Partners</div><div>96,683</div><div>Registered Children</div><div>748</div><div>Survival Program Participants</div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div>Ghana</div>	<div>4</div> <div><div>466</div><div>Church Partners</div><div>134,587</div><div>Registered Children</div><div>1,921</div><div>Survival Program Participants</div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div>Kenya</div>	<div>5</div> <div><div>24</div><div>Church Partners</div><div>2,186</div><div>Registered Children</div><div>218</div><div>Survival Program Participants</div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div>Malawi</div>	<div>6</div> <div><div>430</div><div>Church Partners</div><div>110,007</div><div>Registered Children</div><div>1,329</div><div>Survival Program Participants</div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div>Rwanda</div>	<div>7</div> <div><div>551</div><div>Church Partners</div><div>114,366</div><div>Registered Children</div><div>1,638</div><div>Survival Program Participants</div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div>Tanzania</div>	<div>8</div> <div><div>331</div><div>Church Partners</div><div>76,858</div><div>Registered Children</div><div>1,588</div><div>Survival Program Participants</div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div>Togo</div>	<div>9</div> <div><div>469</div><div>Church Partners</div><div>140,182</div><div>Registered Children</div><div>1,986</div><div>Survival Program Participants</div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div>Uganda</div>	<div>10</div> <div><div>New</div><div>country expansion. Data not yet available.</div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div>Zambia</div>
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My memories of gaining access to clean water



On a Friday evening, I heard a loud noise of big trucks heading to the Compassion centre...

Egodine lives with her aunt, Nina. The time taken to fetch and purify water, the health risks and the social impact all take a toll.

In her own words, Egodine shares what it was like to see a life-changing resource come to her community:

I heard a special announcement from Ezeckiel, the centre director. He told us that the centre was going to receive a new borehole. He told us that it would give us clean water and would come with beautiful handwashing facilities. My friends and I all clapped and danced!

On a Friday evening, I heard a loud noise of big trucks heading to the Compassion centre.

Many people stopped by the centre on the morning of the drilling day to watch. The drilling was difficult, and the workers were soon covered with red dust and mud.

Several weeks after, our centre director Ezeckiel showed us how to use the water taps to get clean water. When I drank the water for the first time, it was light, fresh and tasteless. I thanked God for the new borehole and thought, "We are now like people in town!"

Our church planned a day to celebrate, and we could hardly wait! The church leaders and our parents met around the borehole to give thanks.



People no longer need to buy drinking water. I'm happy to carry my small can of clean water home, walking with my aunt, Nina.

READ THE FULL STORY AT



compassion.ca/blog/diary-of-clean-water



Asia

Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia,
Myanmar, Philippines, Sri Lanka,
Thailand

Totals from June 2023

7

Countries

1,577

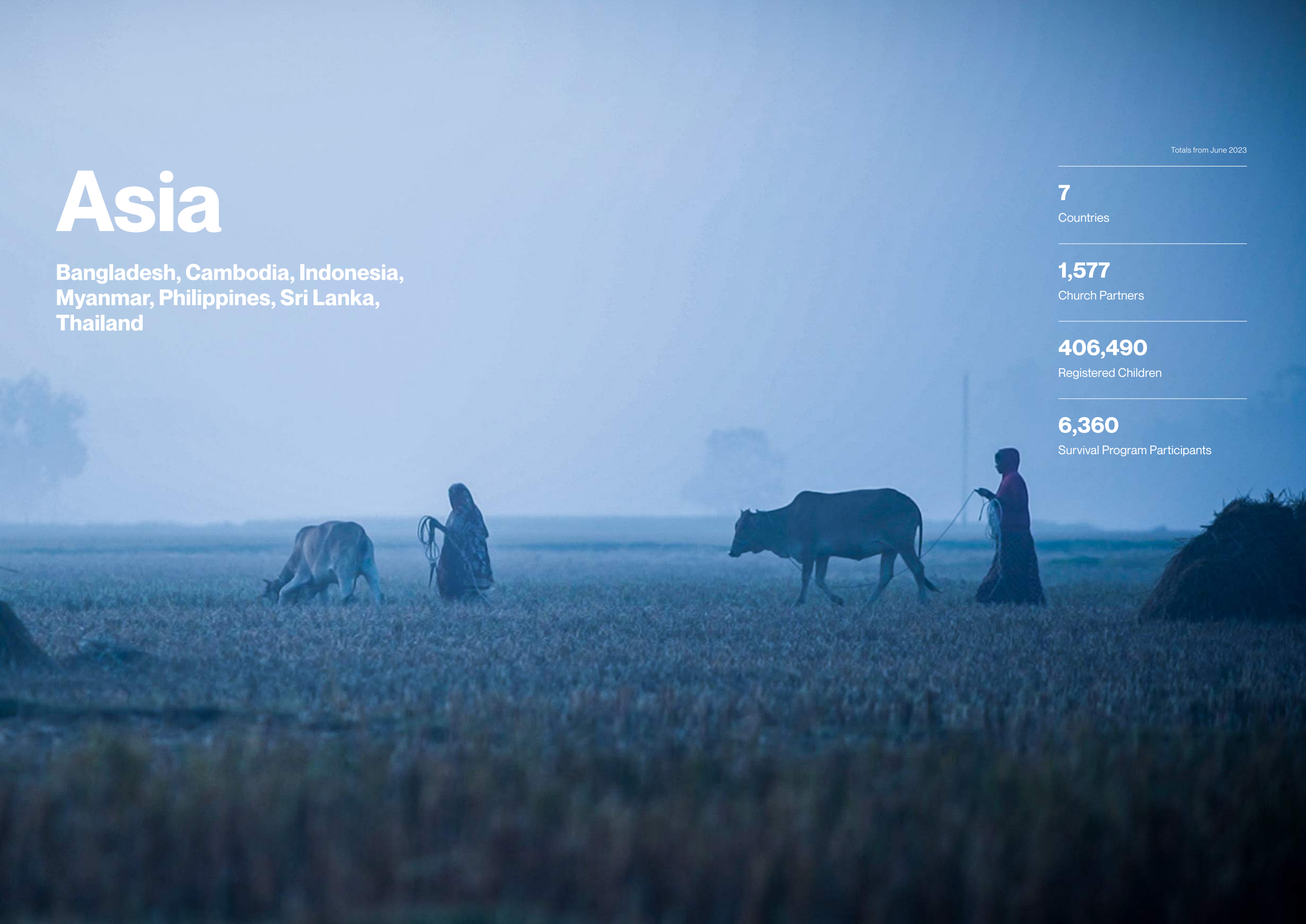
Church Partners

406,490

Registered Children

6,360

Survival Program Participants



Here's where you made an impact

1

169
Church Partners

53,881
Registered Children

1,161
Survival Program
Participants



Bangladesh

2

New country expansion.
Data not yet available.



Cambodia

3

695
Church Partners

165,116
Registered Children

2,192
Survival Program
Participants



Indonesia

4

New country expansion.
Data not yet available.



Myanmar

5

436
Church Partners

104,978
Registered Children

1,168
Survival Program
Participants



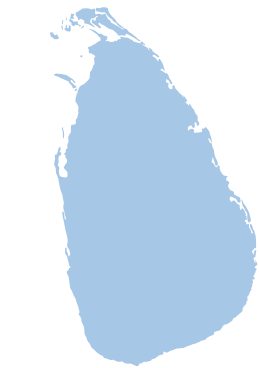
Philippines

6

119
Church Partners

24,925
Registered Children

1,555
Survival Program
Participants



Sri Lanka

7

158
Church Partners

57,590
Registered Children

284
Survival Program
Participants



Thailand



One girl's road to her grade 12 board exams



With enough food to attend school, Bobita dreams of becoming a teacher and breaking the cycle of poverty.



Bobita is preparing for her upcoming grade 12 board exams. She's the first in her family to take a board exam and her parents, Manno and Koisoila, are cheering her on.

"It just warms my heart to think my girls won't be tea field workers like me when they're ready to work," says Manno. It's hard work, and it has been difficult to stretch what they earn to ensure their three daughters have sufficient food, clothing and shelter.

When flash floods hit the northeastern region of the country, people had to wait a week for the water to recede and Bobita's village was cut off from food supplies.

Thankfully, the local Compassion centre was there amidst the crisis and quickly began distributing emergency food packs.

Unfortunately, even greater hardship was to follow. Inflation set in rapidly. In communities like Bobita's where families earn meagre wages, even small price rises have big consequences.

"Normally we used to have two meals a day—one in the morning and another late in the evening. But now, it is out of my understanding what consequences we will have to face," says Bobita.

In such a dire situation, providing families with food relief is urgent.

The emergency food packs do more than fill hungry bellies in Bobita's home—they are an essential part of building a future free from poverty. The tangible expression of love delivered with each emergency food pack encourages Bobita to continue working towards her dream of becoming a teacher.

READ THE FULL STORY AT



compassion.ca/blog/emergency-food-packs



Central America

Dominican Republic, El Salvador,
Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras,
Mexico, Nicaragua

Totals from June 2023

7

Countries

1,786

Church Partners

545,947

Registered Children

6,287

Survival Program Participants

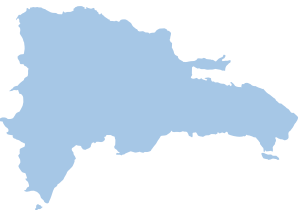
Here's where you made an impact

1

242
Church Partners

66,831
Registered Children

949
Survival Program
Participants



Dominican
Republic

2

263
Church Partners

70,788
Registered Children

864
Survival Program
Participants



El Salvador

3

249
Church Partners

69,779
Registered Children

615
Survival Program
Participants



Guatemala

4

356
Church Partners

135,267
Registered Children

1,646
Survival Program
Participants



Haiti

5

219
Church Partners

64,434
Registered Children

621
Survival Program
Participants



Honduras

6

222
Church Partners

67,625
Registered Children

813
Survival Program
Participants



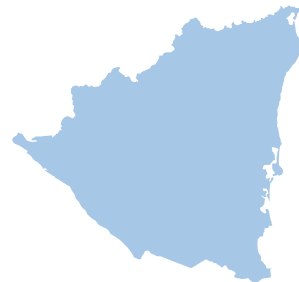
Mexico

7

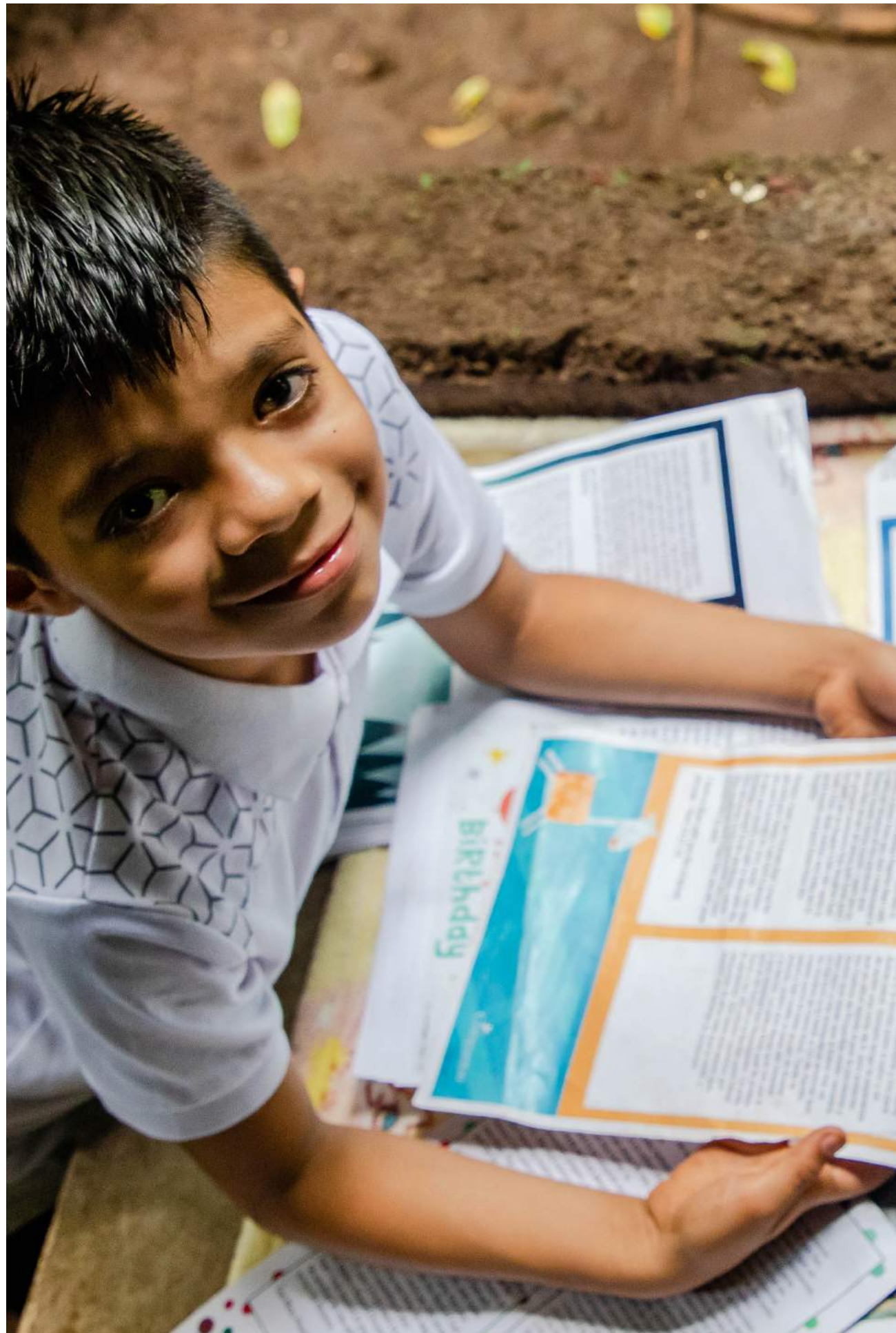
235
Church Partners

71,223
Registered Children

779
Survival Program
Participants



Nicaragua



How one sponsor encouraged two brothers to persevere



Sponsor letters have the power to point children to Christ and encourage them towards a bright future.



Holman was eight years old when he was registered at a local Compassion centre in Nicaragua. A few months later, Holman learned he had a sponsor—and soon, he received his first letter.

“My sponsor would always tell me to seek the Lord first, then He would help me with everything else,” says Holman.

Five years later, Holman’s brother Joseph was registered, too, and the family was delighted when Holman’s sponsor chose to support both brothers.

The boys thrived at the centre, but the structure of their home was unsafe. A river rose during the rainy season, so they needed a fence to protect the family from the river’s crumbling banks. The roof also began to leak heavily. With few job opportunities, their parents couldn’t save for much-needed supplies.

Their sponsor encouraged them to keep their faith.

“I like the Bible verses our sponsor sends us,” says Joseph. “They’re really special to me because they remind me that God is with us, and He works miracles when we least expect it.”

One of those miracles came in a phone call from their Compassion centre. Their sponsor sent the family a financial gift allowing them to buy the supplies needed to repair their home and build a fence.

With that encouragement, Holman enrolled in a vocational training course in computers offered at his Compassion centre.

“I always remember my sponsor’s words telling me to study and keep pushing forward with my education... He always says to finish school and put all my future plans in God’s hands.”

READ THE FULL STORY AT



compassion.ca/blog/words-of-impact



South America

Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia,
Ecuador, Peru

Totals from June 2023

5

Countries

1,298

Church Partners

451,608

Registered Children

5,026

Survival Program Participants



Here’s where you made an impact

1

227
Church Partners

99,897
Registered Children

1,331
Survival Program
Participants



Bolivia

2

219
Church Partners

69,754
Registered Children

500
Survival Program
Participants



Brazil

3

317
Church Partners

94,162
Registered Children

996
Survival Program
Participants



Colombia

4

263
Church Partners

96,998
Registered Children

1,239
Survival Program
Participants



Ecuador

5

272
Church Partners

90,797
Registered Children

960
Survival Program
Participants



Peru



Support for a grandmother in the midst of grief



When Deinнер's mother passed away after giving birth, the family turned to the Compassion centre for support.



"I remember how happy I was when I saw you for the first time. Despite the pain, there you were: so innocent, so beautiful, reminding me of God's love." These are the reflections of Deinнер's grandmother, Bridis, as she holds her grandson.

Deinнер's mother, Cindy, was diagnosed with COVID-19 while pregnant and was admitted to the local hospital. Little did the family know she would remain there for two months battling the illness while facing complications in her pregnancy. As her condition worsened, the doctors decided to perform an emergency cesarean section, and Deinнер was born at seven months of gestation. He was sent to the neonatal intensive care unit as the doctors expected Cindy to recover.

Sadly, Cindy passed away one day after Deinнер was born.

Deinнер remained in the hospital, and his father contacted the Compassion centre for help. Together, they provided what was needed to keep him there. After Deinнер was discharged from the hospital, the family had to make some difficult decisions which led to Bridis taking Deinнер in and becoming his full-time caretaker.

Deinнер was then enrolled in Compassion's Survival program at the local Compassion centre. Since being a part of the program, the centre has provided the family

with food, a bed and an oven so Bridis can run a small business baking bread to help bring in some income. They have also provided emotional support and care to Bridis as Deinнер's primary caretaker.

Despite the grief and sorrow that came with the loss of Deinнер's mother, Bridis feels that caring for her grandson is nurturing new hope thanks to the support of Compassion's Survival program.

READ THE FULL STORY AT



compassion.ca/blog/beginnings



Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, **to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.**

 Ephesians 3:20





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